

Senate Bill 236

By: Senators Hudgens of the 47th and Brown of the 26th

AS PASSED

AN ACT

To amend Code Section 45-18-9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the right of continuation of health coverage for a spouse or dependent of a deceased public employee, right to resumption of coverage, payment of contributions, and promulgation of rules and regulations as to continuance, discontinuance, and resumption of coverage, so as to provide that the surviving spouse and dependents of a state employee killed while acting in the scope of his or her employment shall be entitled to continue coverage under the state health insurance plan under certain conditions; to provide that any person so eligible to continue such coverage shall pay the same premium as an active state employee; to provide for rules and regulations; to amend Code Section 45-18-54 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to continuation of optional employee benefit plans and approval of optional plans or contracting with new or additional insurers, so as to provide that any department, agency, authority, county department of health, or local board of education may receive an administrative fee or service fee for certain services; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Code Section 45-18-9 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the right of continuation of health coverage for a spouse or dependent of a deceased public employee, right to resumption of coverage, payment of contributions, and promulgation of rules and regulations as to continuance, discontinuance, and resumption of coverage, is amended by striking in its entirety subsection (e) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(e) If any employee of this state, regardless of his or her time in service, is killed while acting within the scope of his or her employment or receives bodily injury while acting within the scope of his or her employment that directly results in death thereafter, any spouse or dependent child or children included in the coverage of the contract or contracts for health insurance as provided in this article at the time of the employee's death who are

not otherwise eligible under subsection (a) of this Code section may be entitled to continue such coverage upon agreeing to pay contributions at the same rate as required for state employees and in compliance with the rules and regulations governing such coverage. The board may adopt rules and regulations governing the continuance, discontinuance, and resumption of coverage by any such spouse or dependent child or children."

SECTION 2.

Code Section 45-18-54 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to continuation of optional employee benefit plans and approval of optional plans or contracting with new or additional insurers, is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

"(d) Nothing in this Code section shall preclude any department, agency, authority, county department of health, or local board of education from receiving an administrative or service fee from any corporation licensed to transact business in this state as reimbursement for the time and expense of administering any optional employee benefit plan which was in operation on January 1, 1986."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.